

From: Haradon Zeb
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/22/02 11:00pm
Subject: In regards to Microsoft antitrust case

It is my understanding that the Department of Justice is seeking public comment on the Microsoft settlement. My intention in this letter is to state my opinion on this matter. First, I would like to explain that I believe any producer (an individual or a business), has the right to produce or legally acquire a product or service and offer it for sale under any conditions they deem fair, if such merchandise is represented accurately. As a consumer, I should have the right to accept their offer or refuse it. In the case of Microsoft, this right has not been infringed. Never have I felt compelled to purchase a Microsoft product or service. I am not aware of any action Microsoft has taken to force me to purchase any of their products or services. I have explored other operating systems, such as MacOS, Unix, and Linux, and have remained a user of Microsoft Windows due to its superior stability and usability. I have also exercised the choice not to use Microsoft products in certain cases. For example, I have used MSN Messenger Service, and ultimately uninstalled it from my system because I was unhappy with it's performance. I now use the competitor's products ICQ and Yahoo Messenger. I will reiterate: Microsoft has never interfered with my choice as a consumer to choose which product I want to use. The reason Microsoft has a large market share in certain areas is because they excel in those areas. I do not consider bundling software (such as the Internet Explorer web browser) with the operating system to be a limiting of my choices. On the issue of misrepresentation, if it could be shown that Microsoft has intentionally written code into the Windows Operating System which would cause other applications to not work, without warning consumers of this so that they could make an informed decision, then this would be a case where they had limited consumer choice. To the best of my knowledge, Microsoft has not done this.

For these reasons, I recommend the absolute minimum penalty, preferably none at all, as Microsoft's punishment in this trial.

Thank you for your time,

-Zeb Haradon

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